

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/829,988

Examiner

Huyen X. Vo

Applicant(s)

SHIODA ET AL.

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/3/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed over prior art of record. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Tsukamoto et al. (US 5748585) discloses a disc apparatus includes a readout unit, an audio signal output unit, a memory, a switch, and a controller. The readout unit reads out data from a disc wherein the data includes at least digital audio data. The audio signal output unit produces an audio signal output in accordance with the digital audio data. The memory stores the digital audio data read from the disc by the readout unit. The switch switches the digital audio data supplied to the audio signal output unit between the digital audio data stored in the memory and the digital audio data currently being read by the readout unit. Furthermore, the controller controls the readout unit and the memory so that, prior to a playback start operation, the digital audio data of a first predetermined period from a beginning of at least one program is read out by the readout unit and stored in the memory; controls the switch so that, at a beginning of the playback start operation, the audio signal output unit produces the audio signal output based on the digital audio data stored in the memory; and controls the switch so that, a second predetermined period after the start operation, the audio signal output unit produces the audio signal output based on the digital audio data currently being read out by the readout unit (*referring to reference*). Okada et al. (US 5809454) teach an audio reproducing apparatus includes an audio decoder and a voice speed converting unit. The audio decoder decodes an audio data stream to produce an audio signal. The voice speed converting unit converts the audio signal in

such a manner that when a bit rate is higher than a normal bit rate, a pitch of a reproduced sound interval is the same as the pitch of the sound interval in a normal playback mode and a voice speed in the reproduced sound interval approaches a voice speed in a sound interval in the normal playback mode. The voice speed converting unit further performs voice speed conversion on the audio signal in such a manner that when the bit rate is lower than the normal bit rate, the sound interval is not noticeably interrupted (*referring to reference*). Both Tsukamoto et al. and Okada et al. fail to specifically disclose the steps of a switching means for selecting either one of the PCM audio data successively outputted directly from said compression decoder or the temporary stored data stored in said first storage means, and outputting thereof, wherein when a quick traverse play back command or quick returning play back command is given by said operation section, (1) said control section controls said switching means and selectively outputs the temporarily stored data stored in said first storage means and (2) said switch means outputs a special audio data, wherein the special audio data is an imitation sound into which the quick traverse play-back of the audio information is converted. Furthermore, it would have not been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Tsukamoto et al. and/or Okada et al. in order to obtain the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 1-20 are allowed over prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

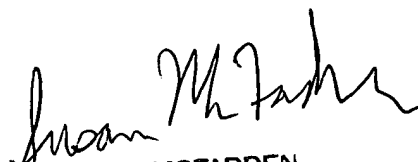
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen X. Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HXV

12/20/2005


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER